United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
25 January-3 February 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Albert Schweitzer Institute	2
2.	America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc.	3
3.	Arab Organization for Human Rights	5
4.	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre	7
5.	Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association	10
6.	Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem	11
7.	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations	12

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-49987 (E) 251109

Please recycle

1. Albert Schweitzer Institute (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Albert Schweitzer Institute (ASI) promotes the ideas and philosophies of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, principally through organizing conferences on important issues facing the world today, and through humanitarian activities with students of the Quinnipiac University in Nicaragua, Cameroon and Guatemala. By 2010, college students from other countries will engage in these activities.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: The Albert Schweitzer Institute continues to address many of the Millennium Development Goals through its humanitarian work in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In collaboration with the Alianza Americana, projects in poverty-stricken communities around Leon, Nicaragua, include: (a) the construction of three classrooms; (b) the construction of a water and septic system for a school; (c) the provision of microscopes for a high school science programme; (d) the construction of school gardens and irrigation systems; (e) the painting and repairing of several classrooms in schools in the area; (f) five years of teacher training programmes for teachers in the Leon area; (g) workshops with representatives of the Quinnipiac University Physical and Occupational Therapy Programs to train health professionals in the Leon, Nicaragua, health system with the latest therapeutic interventions; (h) working with veterans groups to deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome; and (i) workshops on small business development.

Similar programmes are being implemented in Guatemala in cooperation with the Rigoberta Menchú Foundation. More conferences and special events in conjunction with United Nations entities are in the planning stages.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) the Albert Schweitzer Institute co-sponsored the conference entitled "A firm and lasting peace in Central America: pending agenda 20 years later", held on 13 June 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Central American Esquipulas II Peace Agreement. Among the distinguished speakers and panellists were two of the treaty's signatories — Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, whose courageous initiative won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, and Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, former president of Guatemala. After the main speeches, a number of smaller panels were held on topics related to peace in Central America. The other co-sponsors of the event were the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute; (b) in September 2007, a major conference was held at Quinnipiac University on the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Schweitzer's call for an end to nuclear testing, with former United States President Jimmy Carter as a keynote speaker. Also present as panellists for educational sessions on nuclear weapons were disarmament experts from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, including Mr. Michael Cassandra. Ambassador Sergio Duarte also was in attendance, along with two atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Albert Schweitzer Institute contends that solving the problem of nuclear weapons is a corollary to supporting all the Millennium Development Goals, given that expenditures on weapons take away from expenditures on the Millennium Development Goals; (c) in October 2008, a conference was held at

Quinnipiac University with the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú to examine gender issues and indigenous rights. Panellists were provided by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The first female chief of the Cherokee nation, Wilma Mankiller, was a keynote speaker. The issues related to Millennium Development Goals: goal 1, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; goal 3, to promote gender equality and empower women; and goal 5, to promote maternal health; (d) in November 2008, the Albert Schweitzer Institute sponsored a luncheon for members of the Security Council along with the Costa Rican Embassy when Costa Rica held the rotating presidency of the Security Council. President Arias gave a speech in the Security Council about the need to enforce Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, requiring the Security Council to examine the relationship between the expenditure of arms and the lack of money for humanitarian purposes. Unfortunately, this had not been discussed in the Security Council since 1946.

2. America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (Special; 1985)

I. Introduction

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) is a private, non-profit organization promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa through education, information, and development assistance programmes. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AMIDEAST maintains a network of field offices in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen. A field office is currently being established in Saudi Arabia, and AMIDEAST also manages the American Language Center in Damascus for the United States Cultural Center (and maintained a field office there through November 2006). AMIDEAST demonstrates its support for the work, purposes and principles of the United Nations in the implementation of programmes that promote the development of local institutions and the improvement and expansion of educational opportunities for the region's youth.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) AMIDEAST/Lebanon sponsored Lebanese participants (via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Professional Training Programme) to attend the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2007), as well as the fifty-second session (2008). Both sessions were held in New York; (b) AMIDEAST/Tunisia's College Club selected and prepared six Tunisian high school students, including five Youth Exchange and Study Programme (YES) alumni, to participate in the 2009 Model United Nations in Doha, Qatar. The event was organized by the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: (a) AMIDEAST/Oman's Country Director attended the Oman-United Nations Children's Fund Annual Review Meeting of the Joint Programme Plans of Action 2008, (2008); (b) AMIDEAST/Yemen cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as part of World Refugee Day in the summer of 2007 to send a group of United States Department of

State-funded Access Micro scholarship students from Aden to the Kharaz Somali Refugee Camp. There, Access students participated in World Refugee Day ceremonies, met with and learned from Somali refugees, and established ongoing contacts, in order to promote the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Yemenis and the growing population of Somali refugees in Yemen. A United States Department of State English Language Fellow assigned to AMIDEAST/Yemen in Aden, Whitney Mirts, was also involved in the event; (c) AMIDEAST/Jordan offered training courses to UNICEF: speed reading of 30 hours in 2005 to seven participants; and fund-raising, proposal writing and a Project Management Institute course of 20 hours in 2007 to 20 participants; (d) AMIDEAST/Jordan, in cooperation with the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI), administered UNHCR scholarships for 34 Iraqi refugees to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at the German-Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan, in 2007-2008; (e) AMIDEAST/Lebanon recruited Hope Fund Scholarship Students with the assistance of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) offices in Lebanon in 2006 and 2008; (f) AMIDEAST/Lebanon's Contact and Resource Center signed a grant agreement with the USAID-funded Transparency and Accountability Grants Programme in 2008 to help people with disabilities and their families in Lebanon benefit from all the rights or services provided for by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; (g) AMIDEAST/Lebanon was a partner in the United States Department of Labor-funded project to combat child labour through education, Alternatives to Combat Child Labour through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa, and was responsible for the regional component of the project. United Nations agencies visited/collaborated with included the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The programme culminated in a regional conference on child labour and education that took place in Cairo, Egypt, (2008); (h) AMIDEAST/Sana'a entered an agreement with the United Nations in 2007 to provide English language training for select United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) staff; (i) AMIDEAST/Syria offered 42 Test of English for International Communication tests in 2005 and 200 Test of English for International Communication tests in 2006 to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)/Golan Heights; (j) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza have cooperated with United Nations agencies such as UNRWA to identify candidates to receive United States Department of State-funded English Access Micro scholarships in multiple years during the reporting period, to recruit and host the Camp Discovery Programme — a summer camp programme for youth, and provided English language professional skills training, and placement testing to UNRWA, World Health Organization (WHO), UNESCO, UNDP, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) employees.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education. Target 3: ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions**: (a) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza provided language and professional development training to 20 Palestinian teachers from UNRWA and private schools in Ramallah, Nablus, Tul-karem, and Qalqiliya through the Professional Certificate in English Teaching programme begun in 2007. In 2008, the programme was enlarged in scope to reach 400 new teachers and the 48,000 students in their classrooms; (b) AMIDEAST/West Bank and Gaza initiated, in late 2007, the USAID-

funded Model Schools Network Programme, introduced 18 West Bank schools to a student-centred, contemporary approach to teaching and learning that fosters the development of critical thinking skills and takes into consideration child development at the physical, cognitive and social levels.

3. Arab Organization for Human Rights (Special; 1989)

I. Introduction

The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) was founded in 1983 as a regional non-governmental organization that works for the defence, protection, and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab region, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties and conventions. Its scope of activities extends to individual and collective civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. It also aims at raising public awareness regarding legal and civil rights. In 1989, AOHR obtained observer status in the Organization of African Unity's Commission for Human and People's Rights. In May 2000, AOHR signed a headquarters' agreement with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt as an international and regional non-governmental organization based in Cairo, Egypt. On 30 April 2004, AOHR obtained "Operational Relations" status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). AOHR has affiliated organizations and branches in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco (two organizations), Sudan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, and Mauritania. It also has chapters in Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. AOHR has a permanent representative in Geneva, Switzerland, to follow the work of the United Nations Office at Geneva. AOHR individual membership totals 3,860 members, extending all over Arab countries and to Arabs in countries all over the world. The AOHR budget is funded by its membership fees, donations and interests from its deposits that consist of its membership donations. It does not accept donations from political movements or governments, in order to maintain its credibility in the Arab world, owing to conceptual reasons especially related to the Arab region.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: Representatives attended the following sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland: sixty-first session (2005) and the sixty-second session (2006). Representatives made oral interventions regarding the human rights situation in the Arab world, especially in the occupied territories of Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Darfur, in the Sudan, and requested the establishment of a fact-finding mission to Palestine and Lebanon. They also attended the following sessions of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, and made oral interventions at the following sessions: first session (2006), regarding the need to reform the treaty-body system and to seek the views of the non-governmental organizations on the work of the Council; the second session (2006); the third session (2006); the fourth session (2007); and at the fifth session (2007), oral interventions were made regarding the human rights situation in the Arab world. The Secretary General of AOHR attended the sixth session (2007), and made an oral intervention on the human rights situation in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon, under

item 4 of the agenda, and proposed the establishment of an inquiry mission regarding the Israeli aggression against the occupied Palestinian territories in Beit Hanoun. The Secretary General of AOHR also presented a written document on the deterioration of the human rights situation in Darfur, Sudan.

AOHR representatives followed the work of the Open-Ended Working Group to Consider Options Regarding the Elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, held in Geneva: the second session (2005); the third session (2006); the fourth session (2007); and the fifth session (2008).

AOHR representatives attended, in Geneva: (a) the Workshop on Human Rights, Counter-Terrorism and States of Emergency (2005), and made an oral intervention on the need to preserve and respect human rights laws and international human rights law when taking measures to combat terrorism; (b) the sixty-sixth session (2006) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and made an oral intervention regarding the defamation of religions, and in particular the serious implications of islamophobia for the enjoyment of all rights, and requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism to include in his report this question; (c) the fifth session (2007) of the Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and presented an oral intervention regarding the need to study the content and scope of the substantive gaps in the existing international instrument to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The AOHR representative also requested a review of the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action by different States and the obstacles faced in achieving such implementation, and suggested initiatives and practical solutions for combating all contemporary scourges of racism; (d) meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, from the thirty-eighth session (2005) to the forty-seventh session (2008), and presented an oral intervention at its forty-first session (2006), regarding the need to stress the obligation of all States to include the principles stated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in three national laws and report to the Committee on actions taken in this regard; (e) the sixth session of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (2007), and presented an oral intervention on the situation of migrant workers in the Arab world; (f) the eighth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development (2007), and presented an oral intervention on the results of the implementation of the joint project between UNDP, OHCHR and AOHR on human rights and development that was implemented from 2003 to 2005. The AOHR representative also raised the relationship between combating extreme poverty and its direct effects on the implementation of the rights to development and the establishment of democracy.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: The Secretary General of AOHR attended: (a) from 6 to 8 July 2005, in Turin, Italy, a workshop organized by UNDP and the European Parliament on the theme "Democracy and Reform in the Arab World", and gave a statement on the steps taken and the obstacles to such reform; (b) from 16 to 18 November 2006, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a meeting organized by the African Union for the establishment of an Early Warning Network for Preventing African Conflicts, and was elected member of the Network Executive Board; (c) October 2008, in Amman, Jordan, a regional workshop, organized by OHCHR, on the theme "Human rights during countering terrorism", and presented a research paper entitled "Effects of

Countering Terrorism on the Economic and Social Rights in the Arab Region"; (d) November 2008, in Geneva, the international conference organized by OHCHR on the theme "The cooperation between the international and regional human rights mechanisms", and presented a background paper on the human rights mechanisms in the Arab region; (e) from 23 to 24 November 2008, Geneva, a meeting organized by OHCHR, UNODC, the European Union, the International Institute for Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, in Siracusa, Italy, and the Irish Institute for Human Rights, regarding the launching of the Project for the Promotion of International Criminal Justice in Post-Conflict Fields; (f) July 2006, in Paris, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; (g) May 2008, in Casablanca, Morocco, a representative of AOHR attended a round table, organized by UNESCO, on the establishment of the Arab Cities Coalition for Countering Racism and Related Forms, and presented an oral intervention on countering racism in the Arab world; (h) December 2008, in Rabat, a representative of AOHR attended a regional workshop, organized by UNESCO, on the theme "Cultural Rights in the Arab North African States"; (i) 2005, AOHR concluded its implementation as executing agency of the regional project on human rights and human development in the Arab region in cooperation with, and financed by, UNDP and OHCHR. AOHR was requested to hold four regional events and to produce and disseminate a comprehensive Arab Human Rights Manual. The four events took place in 2003 and 2004, and four books were published after each event. The Arab Human Rights Manual (the first in the Arab region) was published in December 2005; (j) the AOHR Secretary General, who was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a member of the International Commission of Inquiry for Darfur in 2004, concluded his mission in 2005. He and some members of its secretariat participated in the third publication of the UNDP Human Rights Development Report on freedoms and governance in the Arab region, issued in April 2005. They also participated in preparing the fourth report on Empowerment of Women in the Arab region, issued in February 2006. During 2007 and 2008, the AOHR Secretary General was a member of the Consultative Board for the UNDP Development Report on Human Security.

4. Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

As the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Registry, the role of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) is to promote the fair distribution and responsible management of IP addresses and Autonomous System numbers. These resources are required for the stable and secure operation of the Internet. APNIC does this according to policies developed in an open, transparent, bottom-up policy development process. As a regional industry self-regulatory body, APNIC coordinates the development of these policies through regular APNIC meetings and online discussion forums. Policies approved by consensus at the meetings are then implemented by the APNIC secretariat and form the basis of APNIC operations. The APNIC mission statement is "Addressing the challenge of responsible Internet resource distribution in the Asia Pacific region". APNIC also ensures that there is equitable access to Internet resources, therefore allowing the Internet to grow and be used as a tool to achieve developmental goals. The most significant issue facing APNIC and the Internet community over the last four years is the imminent depletion of the remaining IPv4 address space and the transition

to IPv6. IPv6, which provides an extremely large address space, resolves the IPv4 issue, but raises a number of integration and implementation issues. APNIC has implemented a number of operational changes to assist the Asia Pacific Internet community to adopt IPv6. In particular, APNIC has focused on the needs of developing economies making this transition and heavily subsidizes related training. APNIC has a dedicated IPv6 programme manager, the training programme has developed a specific IPv6 curriculum, and APNIC supports developmental programs such as ISIF to encourage IPv6-related strategies within developing economies. APNIC is well aware of the challenges involved in the development of the Internet in developing countries, particularly in terms of human resource development. As well as conducting subsidized training, APNIC organizes and contributes to fellowship programmes for APNIC and the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies meetings. APNIC also contributes information and consultation to Network Operators' Groups in developing countries, including the Pacific Network Operators' Group and the South Asia Network Operators' Group.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): In 2005, APNIC participated in the preparations for the second phase of the World Summit as well as the final World Summit in Tunis, representing the goals of fair distribution of IP resources in the Asia Pacific region: **Second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society** *(2005, Tunis)*; **Working Group on Internet Governance** *(2005, Geneva)*; **World Summit on the Information Society PrepCom-3** *(2005, Geneva)*

Internet Governance Forum, APNIC was involved in the Internet Governance Forum since its inaugural meeting in 2006.

Internet Governance Forum, *30 October-2 November 2006, Athens, Greece*: APNIC attended to continue its commitment to the WSIS values, representing the role the addressing community plays in the ongoing development of the Internet in the Asia Pacific region.

Internet Governance Forum, *12-15 November 2007, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*: APNIC staff co-organized the "IPv4 to IPv6: Challenges and opportunities" workshop, where APNIC was one of the panellists. APNIC spoke on the need for stakeholders from all sectors to work together to achieve the IPv6 deployment needed for the ongoing stability of the Internet. As a member of the Number Resource Organization, APNIC contributed to the report, "Continuing cooperation: the NRO's role in Internet governance".

Internet Governance Forum, *3-6 December 2008, Hyderabad, India*: APNIC attended the Forum to represent the Asia Pacific Internet resource community and to highlight APNIC's role in supporting Internet development in developing economies in the region. APNIC organized the workshop on "Challenges facing Internet operators in developing countries", which examined how such challenges could be overcome. APNIC spoke on panels of workshops on the themes "Understanding Internet infrastructure: an overview of technology and terminology", "Evolution of the root server system", "Towards a code of good practice on public participation in Internet governance — building on the principles of WSIS and the Aarhus Convention" and "ICANN's Multistakeholder Model". APNIC was also featured in the closing ceremony of the Forum.

International Telecommunications Union (ITU). APNIC has been an International Telecommunications Union Development Sector (ITU-D) member since 2003. APNIC was an International Telecommunications Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) member from March 2003 to March 2005. As a Development Sector member, APNIC participates in ITU meetings where APNIC's expertise in Internet resources is of use.

International Telecommunications Union IPv6 Workshop. *22-23 June 2005, Geneva, Switzerland*: APNIC presented, during the session on IPv6 resource management, an overview of the technical capabilities and limitations of IPv6 to help provide context to the International Telecommunications Union's explorations of public policy implications of IPv6.

ITU Telecom Asia 2008 Forum. *2-5 September 2008, Bangkok, Thailand*. APNIC spoke on the panel for the session "What public policy for next generation/new values?" and about the need to move to IPv6 to allow continued Internet expansion and the role public policy can have in assisting this transition.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field: In 2005, APNIC partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme "Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance". This included contributing to web resources on Internet governance issues for the Asia Pacific region, as well as assisting in a regional survey on the key Internet governance issues for the Asia Pacific to prepare for the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis later that year. APNIC contributed staff resources to the APDIP office to assist with administering the "Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance". APNIC has worked with the Open Regional Dialogue on Internet Governance on the Pan Asia Information and Communication Technology Research and Development grants programme (see following section for more details).

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Target 8f: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications. Pan Asia ICT research and development grants programme, 2005: APNIC, along with the United Nations Development Programme APDIP, was a funding partner for the Pan Asia ICT research and development grants programme. This project funded research on technical solutions for practical problems in the developing world. Its main objective was to build institutional research capacity in developing economies within the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, 17 projects were funded with up to $30,000 each. Diverse ranges of projects were received, including health initiatives, alternative networking techniques, crop monitoring projects, disaster avoidance systems, and a variety of open source software developments. Between 2002 and 2005, the programme received a total of 642 project proposals from 34 countries; 64 projects were funded.

Information Society Innovation Fund, 2008: APNIC, in conjunction with the Canadian International Development Research Centre and the Internet Society, with support of the DotAsia organization, funded the Information Society Innovation Fund programme. In addition, APNIC was the secretariat for the Fund. The Fund provided funding that helped advance local and regional initiatives that introduced, improved and applied innovative Internet and communications technologies for developing economies in the Asia Pacific region. Of the 148 applications received, 11 projects

were selected to benefit from the $30,000 grant (per project). The projects selected showcase diverse uses of ICT technology, such as mobile-based tele-health care, forensic investigation infrastructure, and localized high-performance e-mail for telecentres. In 2008, the successful project representatives were funded to attend a proposal development workshop in Hyderabad to explore simple networking strategies and establish effective collaboration among the projects and had the opportunity to attend the IGF.

Root Domain Name System (DNS) server deployment, 2005-2008: Making root servers available closer to Internet users has an immediate impact on the speed of DNS services, and each new deployment provides greater stability and resilience to the Internet. APNIC's support of root server deployment between 2005 and 2008 targeted developing economies in the Asia Pacific region. In 2005, eight new servers were deployed, with two in 2007 and one in 2008. Due to APNIC support of root DNS server deployment since 2002, there are now 37 root servers in the Asia Pacific region.

Project DUMBO in Myanmar cyclone recovery, 2008: APNIC assisted the Asian Institute of Technology to prepare technical teams for urgent duty in cyclone-ravaged Myanmar. The trainees, all Burmese nationals, were trained in networking technologies, including DUMBO, the wireless broadband network that was developed for use in situations such as natural disasters. APNIC donated money towards this project and provided key staff to help with training needs in Bangkok.

5. Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

"Laryngectomees" are people who have had their larynx or vocal chords removed as a result of laryngeal cancer. The disability in spoken-language or the loss of voice requires breathing through a tracheostoma at the base of the throat when the upper airways are blocked.

As an effective means of realizing the principles of section 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 37/52, the Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association (AFLA) has placed particular emphasis on achieving full and equal participation in society for those who have had disability in spoken-language due to surgical removal of their vocal chords. To this end, AFLA has held several training courses for vocalization instructors in eight locations throughout Asia. During the period November 2005 to May 2008, a total of 336 instructors were given training courses and through their efforts, over 5,000 laryngectomees were estimated to have benefited from vocalization rehabilitation in eight locations (1-Thailand, 4-Japan, 1-Indonesia, 1-India and 1-Nepal). At present, 325 instructors have been properly trained to teach esophageal speech to the laryngectomees. The instruction techniques have remarkably improved; even laryngectomy patients in serious conditions whose cancer spread over broad areas have regained their voices. The success ratio of voice recovery by laryngectomees has considerably increased to over 82 per cent due to the successful instructional techniques during this reporting period, as compared to only 75 per cent in past years.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: A representative of AFLA attended the International Women's Day 2008 Public Forum, held on 10 March 2008, hosted by the United Nations University together with United Nations agencies in Japan.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or Headquarters: (a) The North East Asia Symposium on 7 April 2004, together with Japan Federation of Bar Associations, an NGO with Economic and Social Council consultative status; (b) the Study Meeting for International Human Rights (the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) on 9 April 2009, hosted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations in Tokyo; (c) discussed rehabilitation of peoples with disability with Ms. Kozue Kay Nagata, Social Affairs Officer of Disability Sub-Programme Population and Social Integration Section, ESID, on 10 November 2005, at the United Nations building in Bangkok.

6. Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (Special; 1973)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) is a non-governmental, scientifically oriented, international association created in 1951 for the purpose of studying possible solutions to the problem of refugees and migrant workers in general, through the cooperation of experts on a variety of subjects and social workers from many countries. The association is organized in national sections and correspondents. National sections and correspondents exist in Australia, Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. AWR promotes and coordinates scientific research on refugees and migrant workers. Its aim is to contribute through its scientific findings to the search for theoretical and practical solutions to the problem. AWR activities mainly consist of researching problems related to migrations and refugees.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: During the report period, AWR has not been able to participate as fully as it would have liked in the work of the Economic and Social Council, due to serious illnesses of the former contact person of AWR to the Council. AWR bodies will meet on the occasion of its Congress in Romania in September 2009 in order to restructure its work and responsibilities.

Activities in support of global principles: AWR contributed to the work of the United Nations by promoting and coordinating scientific research on refugees and migrant workers. The results of its annual international congresses, seminars, round tables, etc., were made known in the quarterly magazine *AWR Bulletin* and articles and papers on relevant subjects by leading international experts in four languages. AWR has organized an international congress every year since 1951. The 55th congress was held on the theme "Ethnic cleansing in Europe and repatriation after flight and

expulsion" (22-25 September 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia). The commemorative speech "Ethnical cleansing and human rights in the twentieth century" was given by Dr. Danilo Tuerk, former Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations, and former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations. The 56th congress held in 2006 in Poznan, Poland, dealt with the subject "East-West migration after the EU enlargement. Stocktaking and processing for a common Europe". The 57th congress, held in 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania, was on the subject "Migration, asylum and minorities: European and national outlooks in a new Europe". The 58th congress, held in 2008 in Rome, Italy, was on the subject "The contribution of refugees and immigrants to the building of a cultural society in the Europe and the Mediterranean Area". At the end of each congress a resolution was issued relating to the theme of the congress. Reports of the congresses, lectures and resolutions had been printed in the *AWR Bulletin*, published by the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin. In addition, AWR's *Treaties on Migration and Refugee Problems* is also published by the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag.

7. World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), founded in 1948, is an international federation of 27 non-profit organizations in 17 countries, with a membership of approximately 20,000 women with a global presence on four continents — North and South America, Europe, and Australia. The main goals of WFUWO are to uphold human rights which promote the principles of political and religious tolerance; foster the development of Ukrainian language and literature, history and fine arts to strengthen Ukrainian identity; and to support Ukraine in its efforts to build a democratic nation. Also for its member organizations to continue to provide programmes that strengthen and support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the reduction of extreme poverty, education, gender equality, environment and health.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women: WFUWO participated in the NGO Planning Committee for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2005 to 2007 and is an active member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and its Subcommittee on Older Women. It participated in advocacy with the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to introduce questions about older women into the Committee protocol. WFUWO NGO representatives participated in the annual NGO Consultation in preparation for advocacy and lobbying at and attended the following Commission sessions at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) the forty-ninth session (2005): WFUWO presented a statement that focused on the specific challenges of combating prostitution, trafficking and other forms of violence against women with specific recommendations (E/CN.6/2005/NGO/4); (b) the fiftieth session (2006): During this session, WFUWO endorsed the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) effort in reducing feminized poverty, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, achieving gender

equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war (E/CN.6/2007/NGO/23); (c) the fifty-first session (2007); and (d) the fifty-second session (2008).

Commission for Social Development: (a) Forty-third session (2005): submitted a statement on advocacy to strengthen families — the foundation of social and economic advancement and cultural preservation as they try to cope with the daunting challenges of our time: globalization, economic dislocation, extreme poverty, migration and transnationalism; (b) the forty-fourth session — advocacy for eradication of extreme poverty.

Others: (a) informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on 24 June 2005. Our representative spoke on behalf of 60 NGO members of the CONGO Committee on the Rights of the Child; (b) informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly on 12 June 2006 in New York. At the suggestion and recommendation of WFUWO, a young professional woman from Ukraine spoke about good practices in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus on the integration of students after the completion of their advanced studies abroad as teachers at universities to transmit knowledge and practices from the developed world into the culture of the countries in transition to market economies; (c) 17 February 2005 side event on "Children affected by armed conflict: reintegration into the family and community"; (d) 2 March 2007, a parallel event coinciding with the Commission on the Status of Women was co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on the theme "Non-violent resolution of conflict within the family: special focus on the girl child"; (e) WFUWO participated in all Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) annual conferences 2005 through 2008 and on the Planning Committee of the Conferences, and attended a majority of the weekly briefings at United Nations Headquarters; (f) WFUWO participated in the 61st DPI/NGO Conference in Paris (2008), held on theme "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60".

Activities in support of global principles: Several articles were written informing the public about the work of the United Nations. For example, an article published in the newspaper *Ukrainian Weekly* on 26 March 2006, entitled "NGO workshop at United Nations focuses on families and poverty"; 31 August 2008, "Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; the special issue of the organization's journal *Ukrainian Women in The World* (2007) was devoted to the work of the United Nations. The WFUWO NGO representative was chosen as one of the senior editors of the "2008 NGO Framework for Action Report — Climate Causus.net", on which the editorial group worked for a year with input and participation of NGOs. The report was received by Under-Secretary-General Kio Akasaka on 1 January 2009, on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals: WFUWO contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following geographical regions: Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: (a) 9,027 elderly women were given packages and stipends; (b) 15,700 orphanages received clothing and financial help; (c) 21,435 children in elementary schools received nutritious breakfasts.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education (because of the unique needs in countries in transition all levels of education were supported): 17,205 children received stipends.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health: two mammography machines were purchased to service the areas of Lviv and Kherson, Ukraine, and educational material was published on early cancer detection. The target is to reduce the mortality ratio of women dying specifically of breast cancer and related diseases.